

In the Claims:

1-8 Cancelled

9. (currently amended) Process for denitrification of exhaust gasses of an internal combustion engine operated primarily in the lean phase including the following process steps:

- placing in the exhaust gas stream of the internal combustion engine a nitrogen oxide storing and catalytically effective solid which is free of alkali earth metals, alkali metals, and rare earth, silver [?] and silver compounds, comprising
 - (a) a porous carrier substance and ^{ok}
 - (b) ~~rhodium~~ a noble metal, which is provided on the porous carrier substance,
- storing nitrogen oxide during the lean motor operating phase with an air/fuel ratio $\lambda > 1$,
- releasing and catalytically converting the nitrogen oxide during the rich motor operating phase with an air/fuel ratio $\lambda < 1$ ^{ok} $\lambda > 1$,

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wherein the porous carrier substance is comprised of at least 50 wt.% zirconium oxide, ~~titanium oxide, silicon oxide or a zeolite or a mixture of two or more of these compounds~~ and wherein the noble metal comprises rhodium. ^{ok}

10. (currently amended) Process according to Claim 9, wherein a second noble metal, ~~for example Pt, Pd, or Ir,~~ or a mixture of noble metals, is provided upon the porous carrier substance.

11. (currently amended) Process according to Claim 9, wherein the solid is in the form of a pellet or extrudate extradite, or is provided upon a geometric carrier.

12. (original) Process according to Claim 9, wherein the noble metals are provided as atomic mixture upon the porous carrier substance.

13. (original) Process according to Claim 9, wherein the noble metals are respectively individually applied upon the same or different porous carrier substances.

14. (original) Process according to Claim 13, wherein the noble metals are respectively individually applied upon the same or different porous carrier substances to form a powder mixture.

15. (original) Process according to Claim 13, wherein the respective noble metals applied on identical or different porous carrier substances are provided upon a geometric carrier in layers.

16. (currently amended) Process according to Claim 14, wherein the noble metals are respectively applied individually upon the same or different porous carrier substances are provided separately from each other upon different, ~~for example~~ serially arranged, geometric carriers.

17. (new) Process according to Claim 9, wherein said second noble metal is selected from the group consisting of platinum, palladium and iridium.

18. (new) Process for denitrification of exhaust gasses of an internal combustion engine operated primarily in the lean phase including the following process steps:

- placing in the exhaust gas stream of the internal combustion engine a nitrogen oxide storing and catalytically effective solid which is free of alkali earth metals, alkali metals and rare earth, comprising
 - (a) a porous carrier substance and
 - (b) a noble metal, which is provided on the porous carrier substance,
- storing nitrogen oxide during the lean motor operating phase with an air/fuel ratio $\lambda > 1$,
- releasing and catalytically converting the nitrogen oxide during the rich motor operating phase with an air/fuel ratio $\lambda < 1$,

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wherein the porous carrier substance is comprised of at least 50 wt.% zirconium oxide and wherein the noble metal comprises rhodium.
